



# Reynalds Cross School newsletter

Kineton Green Road, Olton, Solihull, B92 7ER

Satellite Centre, Green Lane, Shirley, Solihull B90 1AE

February 2022 edition



Term

dates



## TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES

### AUTUMN 2021

Term Starts: Thursday 2nd September 2021

INSET: Thursday 2nd September 2021

Half Term: Mon 25th—Fri 29th October 2021

INSET: Friday 17th December 2021

Term Ends: Fri 17th December 2021

### SPRING 2022

Term Starts: Tuesday 4th January 2022

INSET: Tues 4th & Wed 5th January 2022

INSET: Friday 18th February 2022

Half Term: Mon 21st—Fri 25th February 2022

Term Ends: Friday 8th April 2022

### SUMMER 2022

Term Starts Mon 25th April 2022

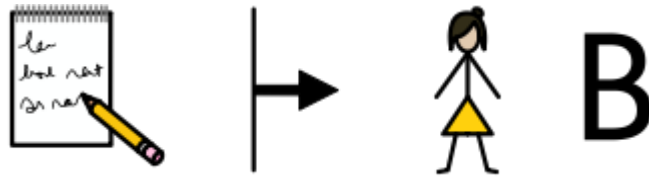
Half Term: Mon 31st May—Fri 3rd June 2022

Term Ends: Thurs 21st July 2022

*INSET DAYS (pupils not in school)*



# Message from Miss Brettell



This will be my first newsletter as the Head Teacher and although we have only been back at school for just over 6 weeks, when I reflect on this half term, the staff and pupils have been very busy indeed as you will see throughout this newsletter. Across the school, pupils have been engaged in a range of exciting learning activities and opportunities such as CBSO visits, horse riding, college visits and educational visits to lots of exciting places. Every pupil in the school has achieved and made progress in a variety of ways and it has been a joy to celebrate their success and achievements with them.

Sadly this term we have experienced the death of a valued member of support staff Jo Allcock. Jo died very unexpectedly leaving a husband and two children. She had been a valued member of staff at Reynolds Cross for 8 years and this school year was based in Mercury class. Jo was an advocate for all pupils and built exceptional bonds with many pupils and their families. Our condolences go out to her family and friends

We say goodbye to Jodie Pedwell, one of our teachers currently working in Mercury class. Jodie has been with us for two years and is going onto work in a College and to continue with her studies for a Masters. We wish Jodie all the best for her future and thank you for her commitment to school.



As I mentioned in my welcoming letter we have welcomed Jessica Francis who has taken on the role of Deputy Head Teacher. She has settled in very well and has spent much time getting to know both pupils and parents.

After Easter we will be welcoming a new member of staff to Mercury Class. In the meantime, Miss Katrina and Miss Alexa will be overseeing all the hard work that goes on in Mercury and have lots of exciting topics and activities planned.

I have been spending time looking at our school's current staffing structure. As a school we have grown considerably in numbers over the years and need to ensure we can support pupils to have the best quality education. My findings have informed the decision to have a staff restructure, allowing for pupil's to have greater opportunities, achievement and also supporting staff development. I will be sharing more information with you in the Easter term.

I have also been looking at the school building and in the forthcoming months we are looking to carry out projects to enhance our school building for our pupils. The first exciting news is ..... We have a sensory room which many of you will be familiar with, it has both a dark and white room and has been in use for at least 15 years. When it was installed, it was a state of the art sensory room but over time and being used every day, it has become very tired and like all antiques, it needed a lot of loving care to keep it going. So it has undergone a redesign and after half term the Sensory room will become an immersive classroom. What is an immersive classroom you may ask? .....

The immersive classroom will bring the real world into school through a fully immersive environment using wind, smoke, sound and visuals. This fantastic resource will allow teachers to take their pupils beyond the classroom and the walls of the school into experiences that they may not otherwise ordinarily encounter.

We can transport our pupils to anywhere: outer space, an adventure into the deepest, darkest woods or an environment that needs to be soothing or stimulating. The space can be adapted to suit the individual needs of pupils. By controlling elements such as temperature and lighting, we create experiences that will enhance our pupil's learning needs through exploration.

# Dates for your diary



WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

Here are some dates for your diary for next Half Term:

World Book Day – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Book Fayre – 9<sup>th</sup> March

After school Swimming to begin

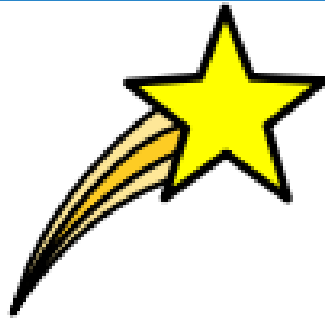
Parents evening 2<sup>nd</sup> March

LD nurse virtual clinics to resume

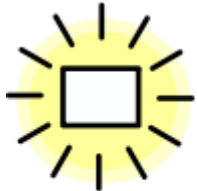
Commonwealth Games – lots of exciting opportunities and activities will be going ahead and the mascot has arrived in school. More details are to follow...



On behalf of all the staff and governors, I wish you a safe and happy half term. We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday 28th February 2022.



## Shooting stars



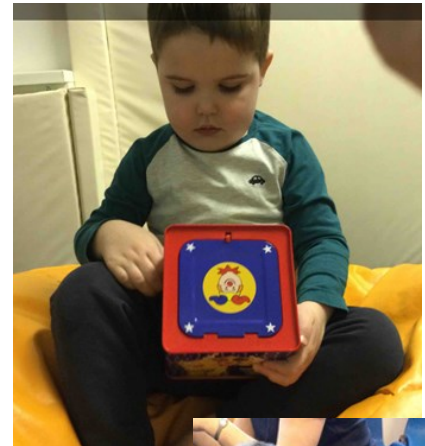
New

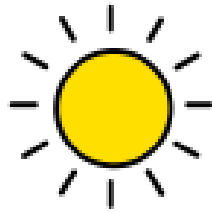


toys

We have had great fun exploring 'new' toys. The children have looked for switches to activate modern toys. They discovered that some light up, some make sounds, and some can be made to move.

To accompany this theme, they have heard the story of 'Just Like Jasper', discovering the different toys in the story. Children have used a communication board and symbols to identify the different toys as they appear in the story.





# Sunshines



New

and

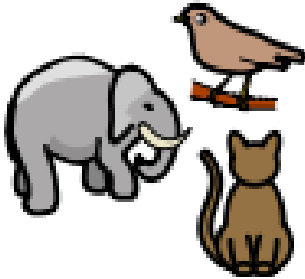
old

Sunshines class have had a fantastic start to the spring term. Pupils have been learning about our topic 'new and old'. In this, pupils have been exploring, learning about and creating some art work based on new and old toys and Chinese New Year. Earlier in the term, Sunshines class also had some very cute visitors; some new baby chicks! We loved having them in our class. Pupils have worked really hard this half term, we hope they have a restful break and look forward to seeing them soon.





## Planets



## Animals

Planets class have worked so hard this half term, focusing on Dinosaurs and other animals. We loved exploring toy dinosaurs in lots of different sensory environments including leaves and straw. We also decorated beautiful animals, including polar bears and snakes in Art. In PE, the pupils really enjoyed moving to the music and searching for animals using binoculars!

We have also done some brilliant Maths work. We loved counting the farm animals that we could see and joining in with number songs!





# Rainbows



Old and new

This half term Rainbows have explored the topic 'Old and New' through looking at old and new toys. Pupils have enjoyed exploring a range of toys, visiting our class toy shop and creating some beautiful artwork.



This half term Rainbows have also been lucky enough to have the school chicks visit them. Pupils learnt that the chicks hatch from eggs.



Rainbows have enjoyed lots of turn taking games and activities with their peers this half term.



Rainbows have also enjoyed sharing lots of stories with their friends and classroom adults through story time, sensory story and choices time.



# MOONBEAMS



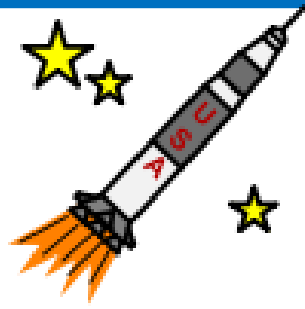
Time



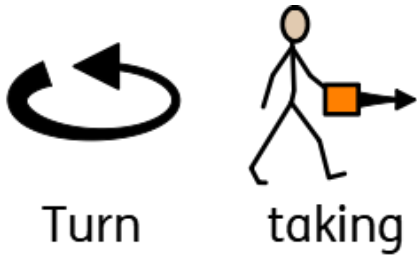
travel

Moonbeams have been 'time travelling' during a sensory story about decades. So far we have explored the 90's – the world wide web was invented, The Lion King movie was shown in cinemas and we played instruments whilst experiencing the battle of the bands – team Robbie or team Gary, team Oasis or team Blur. The 80's has seen us learning about Prince William being born, rockers who had long hair, the film ET and 80's fashion – fluorescent colours, leg warmers and fingerless gloves.



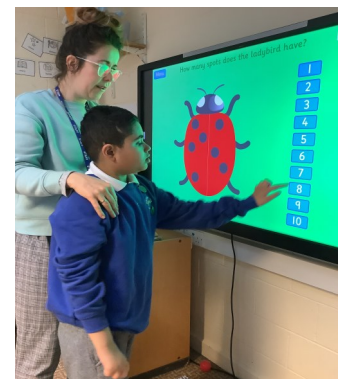
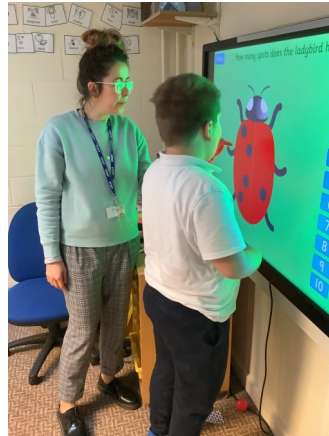


# Rockets

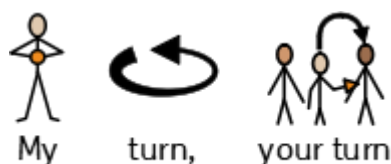


This term we have been learning how to take turns with our peers.

We have been playing games and using the interactive whiteboard.



We say 'my turn, your turn', as we encourage the children to take turns.



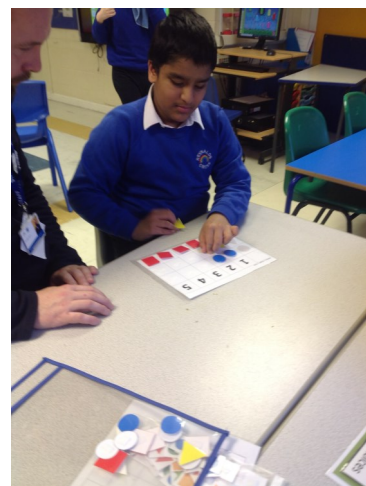


# Comets

Comets really enjoyed the first half term of the spring term.

We worked on a variety of targets improving our visual skills and problem solving in maths and independent work. We used symbols to communicate our likes and needs in all activities.

We also regularly explored different materials in sensory messy play, which we love.





## Galaxies





### The very hungry caterpillar

This half term, Galaxies have been learning about Old and New by exploring the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Every Monday, we have cut up and tasted fruit from the story. Throughout the week, we have used technology to take photographs of the fruit as it turned from new to old. Then on Fridays, we used the fruit to create artwork with.

In Maths, we have been counting the fruit and learning the days of the week.




  
 Mercury class




  
 City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra










  
 This term, Mercury class are enjoying sessions with City of  








  
 Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO). So far, the pupils have enjoyed  








  
 listening to classical music and joining in my exploring some instruments!





Venus



Tally



writing



Venus



class



have been



working hard



this half



term.



We



have been



practising



writing

+



learning



about



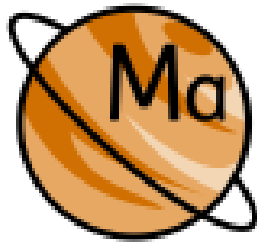
The

Hungry



Caterpillar.



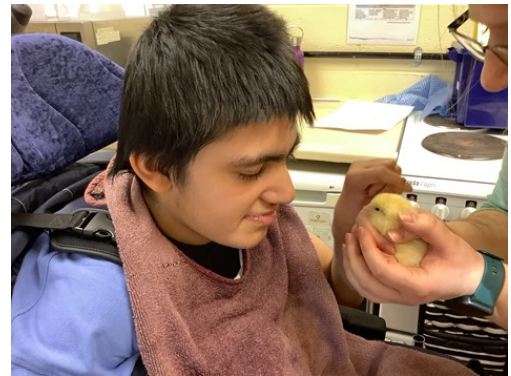


## Mars



Looking after and caring for animals

As part of our ASDAN module “Looking after and caring for animals”, Mars class helped to look after nine chicks for two weeks. They arrived as eggs and soon after hatched and grew almost double their initial size. We had to make sure they had enough food, water and that their box was nice and clean.

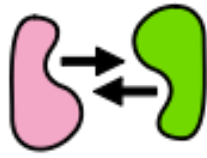




# Jupiter



Social



interaction

Throughout January and February we have been focusing on social interaction. During the week we have engaged in a variety of social activities, recognising and greeting our friends during morning communication and playing games during well-being time. We especially enjoyed races and playing water rugby during our swimming lessons, throwing the ball to our team mates and trying to score a goal. It was great fun ☺



Have a lovely half term!



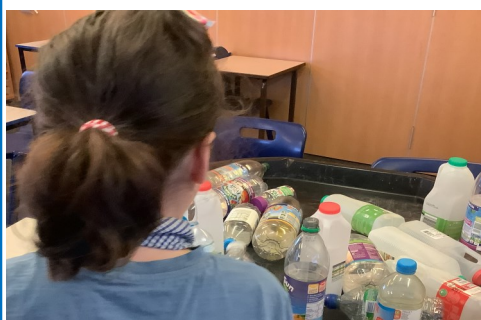


Saturn



Caring for the environment

This term in my Community sessions, pupils have been learning about how to care for the environment. Pupils have worked hard learning the words and signs to the 'We recycle' song. Pupils have also been helping to sort recycling into plastics, cardboard and metal. The class have also explored reusing and upcycling making plastic milk bottles in to colourful elephants.



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle





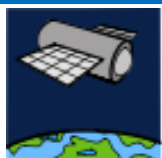
## Neptune



### Reading

This term Neptune Class have been enjoying their new reading corner in the link. They have been reading some of their favourite books and stories on their own or sharing a book with a friend by reading to each other.





Satellite



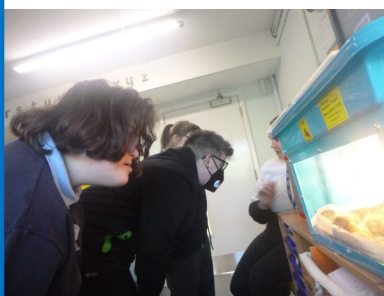
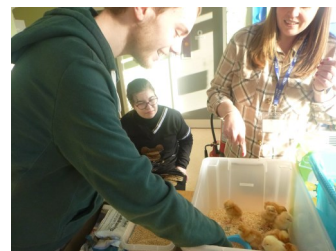
Centre

## The Living Eggs Project at the Satellite Centre

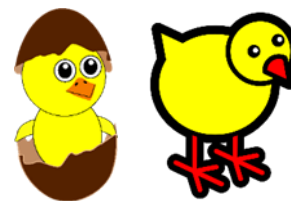


Animal Care

As part of the ASDAN animal care module the pupils took part in the living eggs project. The pupils followed safety advice to care for the chocks and handled them with great care. We really enjoyed watching them grow and develop.



## Working towards ASDAN qualifications in 14-19 stage



Personal Progress unit 'Developing skills for the workplace: looking after and caring for animals' gives opportunity for students to be directly involved with daily care and safety routines for different animals and pets. This proves a good taster towards ideas for future vocational or positive alternatives to work activities they might enjoy. Students were delighted when staff brought in much loved pets for some to meet and help care for. School also recruited some feathered friends to help give additional practical experience.



Eggs on arrival in incubator.



Day 3- starting to hatch,  
moved to brooder box

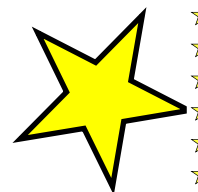
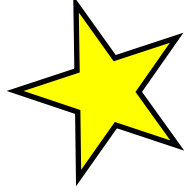


Chicks One week old.

A day after hatching, chicks moved to brooder box for students to clean out and give chicks food and water daily. There was great excitement as some students watched chicks hatch over a few hours. They discovered that chicks use a 'beak tooth', a hard lump on the end of their beak, to break out of the shell from the inside, a process is called pipping.

Our students also wanted to know what happened to the chickens after the 2-week project ended. A question we had looked into carefully with the project provider [Livingeggs.co.uk](http://Livingeggs.co.uk). Please look at their web site for more information.

# Stars of Fame



## W/C 10th January

Well done to Neptune Class for being so calm and caring with the new chicks.

Saturn: Lacey for tolerating her new glasses and doing some fantastic signing!

Planets: Ibrahim for saying 'Stop' and 'toilet' to communicate and for playing kindly with friends.

Voyager: Vicki for fantastic communication and interaction.

Also certificates for all students who attended QAC this week (Sarah, Hannah, Joe, James, Sufyaan, Arthur)

Rainbows' pupils are all stars this week for settling back into school well after the holidays and for doing some good playing with their friend's

Mars: Faraz for lots of good communication throughout the week.

Sunshine's: Mason - For excellent focus and engagement in all lessons and activities. Well done!

Galaxies: Darragh for great independent work in Group Time and PE this week.

Venus: whole class for participating enthusiastically in a music session with CBSO musicians.

Shooting Stars: Harvey- Great physio- sitting to standing

Alfie following routines with less support

Oscar- Great attitude to learning so far this term

Shreyas- Using the iPad- concentrating for a few minutes on a touch response app.

## W/C 17th January

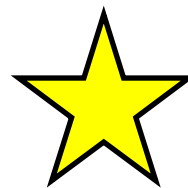
Neptune: Joshua G for fantastic reading aloud to the group.

Mars Class: Jeevan – Good communication and interaction with his friends in class.

Rainbows: Ruby for saying the sounds in our phonics lessons. Well done, Ruby!

Comets: Georgie for following verbal instruction such as 'pick up' or 'put away' supported with a gestural prompt, and for 'good sitting' during the group time.

Galaxies: Olivia for great and independent work in Writing, Music and Group Time this week.



## W/C 24th January

Moonbeams star of the week is Chloe for a brilliant week back at school. Chloe is communicating with everyone around her, saying lots of words, and interacting with her class peers.

Neptune class star of the week is Kai for working independently and reading CVC words.

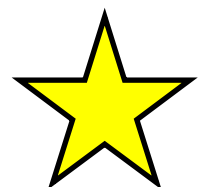
Galaxies star of the week is Ibrahim for great phonics sounds and being much calmer in the classroom

Shooting Stars 'Stars:'

Mollie- Helping other children to play

Aisha- Tapping beats of animal names

Layla- Copying actions with a parachute.



# Stars of Fame

## W/C 4th February

Rainbows: Mason for his great talking and interactions with classroom adults. Well done, Mason!

Neptune: Chloe for working hard in her maths lessons about time and showing her understanding by putting up the class timetable everyday.

Henry: For really good talking, and independently dressing in PE and in preparation for the playground.

Galaxies: Yusuf for good communication for the toilet, independent skills and listening at transition times

Saturn class: Well done to the whole class for participating in lessons enthusiastically.

Shooting Stars: Harrison- Linking two symbols to make requests

Billy- Great work on 'add one more'

Oscar- Independence at peg

Layla- Exploring the resonance board with different parts of her body.

Mars Class: Mohamed for good interaction with staff and peers.

## W/C 11th February

Moonbeams: Zarah for trying hard with all her physio exercises and great interaction with her friends in class reaching and vocalising to gain their attention.

Neptune: Callum for joining in the reading sessions every day.

Galaxies: Hasnain for good communication through PECS, and through signing in the swimming pool.

Jupiter: Oliver Bradley for having an overall great week.

Shooting Stars Stars are:

Harvey- Moving towards a new toy and exploration of it.

Jasmine- Great listening and anticipation in Just Like Jasper story

Oliver- Settling back into school well after some time away.

Saturn: Joseph has been a kind friend to his peers and has shared equipment at playtime this week. He has been working hard on his communication as well as working on his tasks independently. Well done, Joe!

Mars: Millie for good interaction with peers in the pool.

Sunshine's: Lennox - for good listening to and following instructions, remembering kind hands and for having a much calmer week.

